Mr Commander and Fellow Citizens.

After the eloquent remarks which have been made on this occasion, I can add but little, and that mostly statistics, As I was intimate during the war with all the proceedings of the Town; yet still I may be pardoned if I digress a little and go back to the beginning of the war. Early in eighteen hundred and sixty one, rumors began to circulate, that men in the Southern States, were preparing themselves to carry out their particular form, of governing these United States by force of arms, or secede from the union; the ominous sounds grew louder, and rumors began to assume shape, and many acts of violence were committed in the southern states, upon men who held to the union, and in the early spring it culminated in the shutting up of a small force of brave men of the U. S. Army, (under the command of that gallant officer and patriot Major Robert Anderson,) in Fort Sumpter, Charleston South Carolina; at that time men began to feel that the crisis was upon the nation and gathered in small companies and earnestly discussed the situation, but almost unanimously agreeing to stand by the old flag and the constitution come what might; but we were soon awakened from any dreams we might have been indulging in, that harmony could be restored; amongst the different sections of the United States; by the intelligence flashing along the electric wires like a living flame, and with a shock sufficient to arrouse the soundest political sleeper, that the enemies of the union had attacked Fort Sumpter with all the fury of vindictive hate. The people were now fully arroused & on the alert for the next move. immediately the President issued his first call for seventy five thousand men to protect the capital and the life of the nation.

Ten years ago on the sixteenth day of April last, as I was standing on Merchants Row in the city of Boston, I heard the beat of a drum; and in a few minutes a company of soldiers entered the street, on their way to the rendezvous at Faneuil Hall. As those men marched past me with fine soldierlike appearance and firm step, divested of all appearance of holiday parade, - it seemed that an earnest determination had taken possession of every man to stand by the old flag let what would come. Almost instantly ~~to~~ before my mind lay spread out ~~before me~~ all the sorrows, conflicts and anguish of our great National calamity, with its great achievements

the triumph of loyalty, the overthrow of slavery and the maintenance of the nations unity and the restoration of peace, and I think I have never had a clearer idea of the whole subject since then than at that time.

These men were a part of the sixth Mass. Regt. ordered to the Nations capitol Washington in response in response to the call of the President of the United States, this as I have stated was on the sixteenth day of April 1861. On the nineteenth again along the wires flashed the news that the sixth Regiment had been attacked in streets of Baltimore by an infuriated rebel mob, and many of its members smitten down, and some of them slain, there was then no longer any hesitation, this overt act fired the heart of every true lover of his country, and aroused them to the greatest activity, meetings were ~~called~~ held all over the free loyal states, and measures were inaugurated for the assistance and help of the government. The citizens of Brookline took immediate measures to do their share of the work, on the 22d day of April a large meeting ~~was~~ of the citizens was held in the Town Hall, Committees were appointed and resolutions passed taking high ground for the union.

A company was immediately recruited from the Towns of Brookline and West Roxbury ~~and~~ which joined the 1st Regt Mass Vol. Edward A. Wild Captain ~~and~~ with William L. Candler and Charles L. Chandler ~~all~~ of Brookline Lieutenants. This company was Company A. of the 1st Regt Mass. Vol. for three years. The first company of the first Regiment for three years from the loyal States, and to the Towns of Brookline and West Roxbury belongs this honor. This Company was mustered into service about the middle of May 1861 and left for Washington early in June following, participated in the first Battle of Bull Run, and made an honorable record for itself in that and many subsequent battles of the army of the Potomac.

But sir these were not all who represented the Town on the field of strife, a large number of the Second Regiment were from ~~the~~ Brookline. Many were members of the 10th Battery, of the 45th and 46th Regiments, besides in other arms of the service and in the Navy. and most gallantly did they all so far as we have any knowledge bear and conduct themselves.

This Town stands credited ~~with~~ by the government with Eight Hundred and Eighty Officers and men. a larger number than were enrolled by the Officers of the Government, ~~as~~ as liable to do military duty.

Many with whom I was well acquainted, and had associated with in our various walks in life, went forth to return no more; they yeilded up their lives for the life of the Nation, and now sleep on the fields of their glory. ah. Sir. how many a loved one lies in some unknown spot; and as we gather here to lay our floral tributes, upon the sod that covers the ashes of our brave departed soldiers they are not forgotten, and though no cross, or wreath, boquet or flower is laid upon the turf above them by the loving Mother, the fond and affectionate Sister, the sad father, the constant and true hearted one, or the tried and trusty friend or Comrad; yet they are cared for by Him who cares for all the earth, keeps and nourishes each tender germ, which the dew and rain woos forth, the sun warms and strengthens to come to the light ~~of day~~ ~~and~~ over them waves the rustling grass; the sweet scented wild ~~flowers~~ blooms above and around them, ~~and~~ the mild and pitying Moon and the Sentinel Stars watch o're them in the stillness of the night; and although we drop the tear to their memory, let us rejoice that they have left us such noble examples of true patriotism, and devotion to Country; But sir we watch and wait for ~~them~~ their return in vain, they have finished their marches, their toils are o're and they have bivouached on the field of their glory from which no beat of drum nor bugle call shall rouse them more; we honor their noble and patriotic devotion, may we emulate their examples, and so march, and toil, and fight in the battle of life, that when our hearts shall beat the last tattoo that

"summons us to join
That innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
We go not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to their dungeon; but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach our graves,
Like *those* who wrap the drapery of *their* couch
About them and lie down to pleasant dreams."

Address by B. F. Baker
at Hollywood Cemetery Decoration Day May 1871

Address Decoration Day
1872

After the address the soldiers and citizens proceeded to lay their floral offerings on the graves of our soldiers there interred who gave their services and lives in the cause of their country, and a beautiful incident here occurred the covering with flowers the graves of two of our revolutionary patriots Isaac Gardner jr who was killed at the battle of Lexington April 19th 1775 and Col Gardner
both highly respected citizens of Brookline

Brookline ~~who served with honor and distinction in the revolutionary war~~

may their memory be ever sacredly kept by the citizens of Brookline.

The procession then proceeded to Holyhood Cemetery on Heath Street where the services were conducted by the Rev J. M. Finotti, after a solemn dirge by the Band the Revd Gentleman called the attention to the parallel circumstances between the Jews in the times of Judas Maccabeus and the history of our nation in the days of the rebellion, and after calling ~~up~~ to mind many of those who bore an active part in the cause of the union paid an eloquent and glowing tribute to our late Governor John A Andrew, who ever with an active zeal was ready to give all his energies to his country and the suppression of the rebellion.

The services of strewing flowers upon the graves of the soldiers was then done by the soldiers and citizens as at the other cemetery In both Cemeteries was a list of those soldiers who were buried upon the Battle field and many were the offerings placed at the foot of the flag erected to their memory.

The services throughout were beautiful and impressive, the occasion upon which they had come together reminded many of other loved ones who sleep among the silent dead, the clouds like trembling lids were full of tears, and dropping them silently upon the green turf brought forcibly to mind the earlier days of the war, yet like that the clouds rolled away and,

"The softened sunbeams poured around
A fairy light uncertain, pale
The wind flows cool; the scented ground
Breathes odors on the evening gale."

ever with an active zeal was ready to give all his energies to his Country and for the suppression of the rebellion

The service of strewing flowers on the graves of the soldiers here interred was then done as at the other cemetery.

In both Cemeteries was a list of those soldiers of the Town who were buried on the field of battle or whose resting places are unknown, and many were the offerings placed at the foot of the flag erected to their memory.

The services throughout were beautiful and impressive, the occasion ~~upon which they had come together~~, reminded many of other loved ones who sleep among the silent dead. The clouds ~~as if in sympathy with the scene~~, like ~~trembling lids~~ of pitying eyes in sympathy with the scene, were full of tears, which ~~they~~ silently they dropt upon the green turf above the lowly forms ~~which covered the silent tomb~~, and called ~~brought forcibly~~ to mind the ~~earlier and~~ sad and lowering days of the war but like those days of sadness the clouds ~~rolled~~ passed away and

"The softened sunbeams poured around
A fairy light uncertain, pale,
The wind flowed cool; the scented ground
Breathes odors on the evening gale."
"The sun breaks forth, upon the scene
Its parting veil of mist is flung,
And all the wilderness of green
With trembling drops of light was hung."

But the beauties of Spring charm no more, the songs of the birds delight not their ears nor pleas the eye of the dead in the cold grave slumbering.

All their battles are fought, all their marchings are ended
The sound of the bugle shall wake them no more.

But the balmy ~~breath of~~ Spring, the songs of ~~the~~ birds, the soft and genial sun light, ~~charms~~ ~~and~~ all the beauties of nature or tokens of affection of friends can ~~[illegible]~~ charm them no more

All their battles

The sun broke forth, upon the scene
Its floating veil of mist was flung,
And all the wilderness of green
With trembling drops of light was hung"

But the beauties of Spring charm them no more, the songs of the birds no more delight the ear of the sleeping soldiers.

"All their battles are fought, all their ~~battles~~ marchings are ended
The sound of the bugle shall wake them no more.

The services of the day ~~were impressive, calling up~~ recalled to our minds the stearn realities of the past, when the dark clouds of war o'e shadowed us when from their dark and somber folds, the lightnings flashed, the thunders ~~rolled~~ rattled and the fierce tempest of civil strife swept over us, when the heart was sick and faint with the forbodings of sorrows and trials that seemed to envelope us like a mystery. But they also ~~carried the~~ showed the clear sky of the present the tempest past and the bright and cheerfull sunbeams of peace glinting and gleaming across the scene — ~~and~~ carrying the mind forward to the beautiful tommorrow of ~~our~~ life when all the clouds shall have dispeersed and from east to west ~~and~~ from north to south the shall be clear skies and all the people shall rejoyce in a united country, and hope ~~and~~ peace ~~seemed~~ to and the love of our whole country shall dwell in every breast until the time when the nations shall learn war no more.

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The second anniversary of decorating the graves of our soldiers was observed by the citizens of Brookline on the 19th instant with appropriate services

The returned soldiers and sailors of the Town with a long line of citizens formed in procession at the Town Hall at two o'clock in the afternoon Col. Theodore Lyman Chief marshal assisted by Majors Richardson and Storrow, headed by the Woonsocket Cornet Band B.W. Nichols leader, proceeded to the Brookline Cemetery on Walnut Street; here after a dirge by the band, Prayer was offered by the Rev. M. C. Wines, in which he returned thanks for all the mercies and favors of heaven during the dark days of the rebellion, for the kind interposition of Providence in behalf of the loyal cause and our national existence and besought the guiding hand of God in all our future as a nation,

The Rev William Lamson D.D. then addressed those assembled to participate in the ceremonies in the following well chosen remarks

Decoration D
Baker, B. F
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Feb 20